Beattie, Robert

July 1919 - Jan. 1920 (033)

Toronto, 15th July, 1919

Sir Robert Falconer, K.C.M.G.

President

University of Toronto

TORONTO

Dear Sir Robert:

At the request of the Board of Syndics of the Players' Club of the University, I have the honor to present the attached memorandum which sets forth the history and aims of the Club; also a copy of the Club's Constitution.

The Board understands that these in combination set forth the facts the Caput wishes to have in hand before deciding to grant the Club permission to work under the University auspices.

The Syndics would appreciate your advice as to whether there is any other material the Caput will require, and also as to its decision.

I have the honor to be,

Yours faithfully

Robert Beatty

Acting Secretary,
The Players' Club.

THE PLAYERS' CLUB

The Players' Club was founded in 1913, and is the only dramatic organization now in the University which draws its membership from men of all Colleges and faculties. In 1914 and 1915, the Club produced plays by Ibsen, Shaw and Galsworthy, on a scale not otherwise attempted in recent years, and with considerable success.

The Club has for its purposes the development in the University of Toronto of the art of the theatre by:

(a) The presentation during each academic year of dramatic productions chosen from the best literature of all schools and periods; and of lectures and recitals.

(b) The training of student actors, craftsmen, designers and technicians.

(c) The maintenance of the technical equipment of Hart House Theatre for the use of all dramatic organizations within the University.

(d) The issue of publications relating to the drama.

(e) The acquisition and maintenance of a library bearing on the drama.

(f) The acquisition and maintenance of a collection of dresses, arms, furniture, musical instruments and theatrical accessories.

The direction of the Club is in the hands of an executive committee known as the Board of Syndics, composed of graduate and undergraduate representatives. The present Board of Syndics is made up as follows:

President: Dr. George H. Locke.
Treasurer and Acting Secretary:
Robert Beattie
Committee Vincent Massey
G. F. Macfarland
Walter F. Bowles (ex officio)
R. Hodder Williams
E. A. Dale

together with two undergraduates and a tenth Syndic still to be chosen.

During the season of 1919-1920, the Club plans to make seven productions of plays selected according to certain principles which in a cycle of four years will give the widest possible range of the best drama not now available in the commercial theatres. It is proposed that each season's work include the following:

i. A Greek classic.
ii. An Elizabethan classic.
iii. A modern poetic or decorative drama.
iv. A modern naturalistic drama.
v. A Christmas mystery piece.
vi. A classic from a living language.
vii. A double bill made up of two short plays from any period or language, chosen for their dramatic and decorative values.
viii. After the first year, a production devoted to original Canadian plays.

All representations by the Players' Club would be in English.

In addition to the foregoing, the Club proposes to give the following recitals and lectures:

Six matinees lyriques for the public reading of dramatic and lyric poetry;
Six lectures by members of the staff of the University dealing with each play and its author, in advance of its presentation;
Six lectures by the Director of the Hart House Theatre on the aims and methods of the modern stage.

It is planned to play each piece four times. The price of a single ticket would be $1.00 for others than students, and for

students, fifty cents. A year's subscription for non-students would cost $6.00, which would include admittance to all lectures and recitals given by the Club. For students the price of a season's subscription would be $3.00. All lectures and matinees would be free to students whether subscribers or not.

The following plays have been selected for the forthcoming season:

Nov.	The Farce of Master Pierre Patelin The Menaechmi of Plautus
Dec.	Synge's "The Well of the Saints."
Christmas	The Chester Mysteries of the Nativity and Adoration.
Feb.	Ben Johnson's "Alchemist."
Mar.	"The Trojan Women" of Euripides, in the Gilbert Murray translation.
Apr.	Giuseppe Giacosa's "Like Falling Leaves"
June	Shakespeare's " Love's Labour Lost." (To be played for Convocation in the quadrangle of Hart House in the Elizabethan manner).

The matinees lyriques would be given on the afternoon of the third Friday of each month from four to five o'clock. The following program is proposed:

Nov.	Maurice Hewlett's "A Mask of Dead Florentines."
Dec.	A group of sea poems under the heading, "All Seas, All Ships."
Jan.	Gordon Bottomley's "A Vision of Giorgione."
Feb.	A group of poems under the heading, "Music."
Mar.	Browning's "Pippa Passes", or another.
Apr.	A group of poems arising out of the war under the heading, "The New Elizabethans."

CONSTITUTION OF THE PLAYERS' CLUB

Adopted May 3rd, 1919.

1. NAME:

The Club shall be called THE PLAYERS' CLUB of the University of Toronto.

2. PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Club shall be the development in the University of Toronto of the art of the theatre by:

(a) The presentation during each academic year of a programme of dramatic productions chosen from the best literature of all schools and periods; and of lectures and recitals.

(b) The training of student actors, craftsmen, designers and technicians.

(c) The maintenance of the technical equipment of the Hart House Theatre for the use of all dramatic organizations within the University.

(d) The issue of publications relating to the drama.

(e) The acquisition and maintenance of a library bearing on the drama.

(f) The acquisition and maintenance of a collection of dresses, arms, furniture, musical instruments, and theatrical accessories.

3. MEMBERSHIP:

The Club shall be for the men of the University, and there shall be Associates, and two grades of Members:

(a) Associates, who shall not be eligible for Membership until they have completed their first academic year.

(b) Members, who shall be chosen from the body of Associates, and shall not be eligible as Fellows until the completion of their third academic year.

(c) Life Members, who shall be known as Fellows. It shall be within the power of the Members and Fellows to create Honorary Fellows, with all the privileges of Fellowship.

Note: The President of any recognized Dramatic Club in the University may at the discretion of the Syndics be elected an Honorary Fellow for the term of his office.

4. MANAGEMENT:

There shall be an Executive Committee, known as the Board of Syndics, composed as follows:

(a) The Warden of Hart House for the time being.

(b) Six Syndics, chosen from the Fellows of any standing, who shall be elected for a term of three years. Two of these Syndics shall retire every year, and shall be eligible for re-election.

(c) Two Syndics of Undergraduate Standing, chosen one from the Members and one from the Fellows, who shall be elected for a term of one year, and shall be eligible for re-election.

(d) At their first meeting the Syndics shall elect:

1. A tenth Syndic.

2. A Syndic as President of the Club, who shall act as Chairman of the Board of Syndics.

3. A graduate Syndic as Treasurer.

4. An undergraduate Syndic as Secretary.

5. FUNCTIONS OF THE SYNDICS:

(a) They shall appoint Executives and Technical Staff; and shall take other administrative action only upon the recommendation of an Executive.

(b) They shall give final decisions in contentious matters that may be referred to them by any Member or Members.

6. DIRECTOR:

There shall be a Director, who shall have general supervision of the work of the Club, and shall be appointed by and responsible to the Syndics. He may be required to be present, and shall be entitled to be heard at any Meeting other than those of special committees.

7. TECHNICAL STAFF:

The Technical Staff shall be appointed for one year, shall be eligible for reappointment, and shall include the following;

(a) Stage Manager;
(b) Regisseur;
(c) Master or Properties;
(d) Electrician;
(e) Director of Dances;
(f) Director of Music;
(g) Librarian.

8. PROCEDURE OF ELECTION:

(a) Associates may be introduced by any Member or Fellow, with the consent of the Director.

(b) Nominations for Membership shall be approved by the Board of Syndics, and voted upon by the body of Members and Fellows sitting together.

(c) Fellows and Hhnorary Fellows shall be elected from the body of eligible Members by the whole membership of the Club at a General Meeting called by the Syndics. Nominations for Fellowship shall be reserved for those who, by general consent, shall have rendered substantial service to the Club.

(d) At any Meeting held for the purposes of election, Members if any shall be elected before Fellows, and Fellows if any before Syndics.

(e) Associates shall not have the right to vote.

(f) Membership shall cease when a Member severs his connection with the University.

9. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION:

Any amendments to the Constitution shall require the assent, by a two-thirds vote in each case, of the Members and Fellows sitting separately.

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Toronto 17th July, 1919

Sir Robert Falconer, K.C.M.G.
President
University of Toronto
Toronto

Dear Sir Robert:

I have received your letter of July 16th about recognition of the Players' Club by the Caput. Would you allow me to thank you on behalf of the Board of Syndics for your advice to proceed with organization on the assumption that the Caput will give the necessary authorization when it meets.

Yours faithfully

Robert Baxter

Acting Secretary,
The Players' Club

NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY LIMITED.
TORONTO.

30th January, 1920

Sir Robert Falconer, K.C.M.G.
University of Toronto
TORONTO

Dear Sir Robert:

Mr. Rundle thinks you may like to have a note of the information we have received from the C. P. R. about the train from Syracuse to Toronto on Wednesday, February 4th, - the evening on which you have kindly consented to address a dinner of National Trust Company Directors and staff.

The New York Central leaves Syracuse at nine forty a. m., reaching Buffalo about twelve o'clock. There is an hour in Buffalo for connections, and the train is due to arrive in Toronto at five-thirty-eight in the afternoon.

Yours very truly

Robert Stanton.